exporters of agro products including those from Andhra Pradesh through various schemes such as assistance for specialised transport vehicle, pre and post harvest management techniques, participating in International trade fairs, arranging buyer seller meet etc. In addition, two Agri Exports Zones in Andhra Pradesh—one for Mango Pulp and Vegetables and the other for Mango and Grapes have been approved.

Exports to Russia

† 4256. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the commodities exported by India to Russia during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government are considering to export more and more commodities to Russia; and

(c) if so, the measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The main commodities exported by India to Russia during the years 1998-1999, 1999-2000, 2000-2001, *inter-alia,* include RMG Cotton including accessories, Tea, Drugs, Pharmaceuticals and Fine Chemicals, Cotton Yam, Fabrics, made ups, Coffee, RMG manmade fibres, RMG Wool, Tobacco, processed minerals, leather goods, electronic goods, and machinery and instruments etc.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. To enhance India's exports to Russia, Government has taken a number of steps which include promotion of dialogue at the highest level, constant review through the Joint Commission/Working Group/Sub-Group mechanism, promoting direct business contacts through exchange of delegations, Joint Business Councils, holding of exhibitions, participation in fairs etc.

Imposition of non-tariff barrier by Bangladesh

4257. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have lodged a strong protest with Bangladesh for not allowing sugar rakes over rail-route;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether this move is considered as imposition of non-tariff barrier;

(c) whether the matter has since been sorted out; and

(d) whether Bangladesh accepts Indian commodities sent through sea-route?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) The issue of Bangladesh not allowing sugar rakes from India over rail route has been taken up by Government with Bangladesh.

(b) Yes, sir.

(c) Bangladesh has not yet responded to our request for allowing import of sugar through land route.

(d) Yes, Sir.

Export to US and EU Countries

4258. SHRIMATIVANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state: .

(a) whether India's exports to US and EU Countries recorded a fall during the last nine months of 2001-2002;

(b) if so, the reason therefor;

(c) the figures for the corresponding period of the previous year; and

(d) what steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken to increase exports to above countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) During the period April-December 2001 -02, India's export to US and EU Countries have recorded a negative growth at (-) 13.31% and (-) 6.04% respectively. The synchronized global slowdown coupled with the September 11 event and its aftermath have led to lower export growth during the financial year 2001-02. India's export to US and EU Countries for the period April-December 2001-02 and the corresponding period of the previous year (April-December 2000-01) is as under: